37. The Art of Predicting the Future… And Why Tunnel Vision is the Modern-Day Devil

Instructor: Jody Meiman

Firefighters are often praised for their ability to make rapid decisions in dynamic, high-risk environments. Yet many line-of-duty deaths, near-misses, strategic failures, and organizational crises can be traced to a common enemy: tunnel vision. This course explores how firefighters can "predict the future" by identifying weak signals, recognizing emerging threats, anticipating changing conditions, and avoiding the cognitive traps that lead to poor decisions. Participants will learn practical methods for improving situational awareness, expanding their decision space, and seeing around corners before disaster strikes.

About the Instructor:

Edward Jody Meiman has over 30 years of experience in local emergency preparedness and response. He currently serves as Executive Director for Louisville Metro Emergency Services which involves Emergency Management, EMS, MetroSafe (911 Call Center), 311, Office of Special Events, and 911 Mental Health Deflection. He holds an associate degree in Fire and Safety Technology and retired as Battalion Chief with the Louisville Division of Fire and Rescue after 20 years of service. He also retired from Lake Dreamland Volunteer Fire Department in southwest Jefferson County as an Assistant Chief. Jody is a Certified Emergency Medical Technician. He has participated and served as an “on scene” Incident Commander” during several complex hazardous material incidents and specialized rescue responses across Kentucky and is the Emergency Operations Center Manager during many of the large special events that take place in Louisville including Thunder Over Louisville, and all other events that involve the Kentucky Derby Festival. He worked and was a lead instructor for over 15 years with Industrial Safety and Training Services (ISTS) conducting environmental, health and safety training across the United States. Through his travel he performed course development at all levels of competency for Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) hazardous materials and Homeland Security training initiatives including Emergency Response to Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), and Response to Terrorism.

He is a National Fire Academy – certified instructor for a host of academy course work and he routinely serves as an exercise evaluator for the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program initiative during drills, functional and full-scale exercises. He routinely consults and trains with other state, local and private sector clients on National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance, National Response Framework components, and Emergency Management Protocols to ensure coordinated relationships among response organizations and industries to promote sound preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation practices.